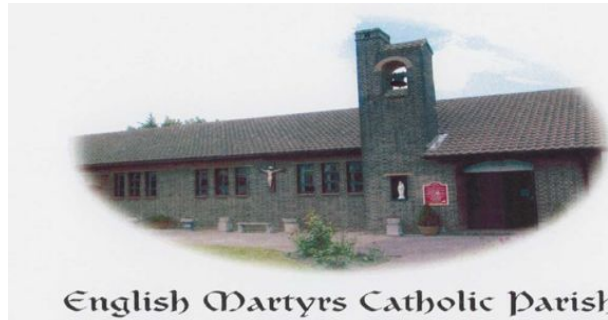


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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021**

**EMBRACING THE LIGHT**

During lent we frequently turn to the Gospel of John, for it contains a rich commentary on the events of the life of Jesus. In the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in chapter 3 of the gospel Jesus explains privately to a Jew, the significance of the coming of the Son of God. Nicodemus was described at the beginning of this chapter as a teacher. This teacher is willing to be taught by Jesus. The evangelist will not tell us whether Nicodemus accepts the teaching or not. After some early exchanges, we then hear no more words of Nicodemus, but only the teaching of Jesus.

The raising up of the Son of God speaks both of his death on the cross and of his resurrection. His death is considered glorious. It leads inevitably to resurrection and triumph. The coming of the Son and his self-giving in death and resurrection are the clearest proof of the love of God for the world. People are called to respond in faith. As St Paul teaches, it is by God's grace that we are saved, through faith. God saves us if only we will allow it. To refuse Christ knowingly is to refuse salvation.

The symbol of light is common in John's gospel. From the very start of the gospel, we learnt that the Light came into the world to challenge the darkness and that the darkness could not overpower the Light. The theme of light returns here. Nicodemus comes to Jesus during the night. Like him we are free to embrace the light or to prefer darkness. Reference to 'the truth' is also frequent in John's gospel. We will live by the truth, if we allow Jesus to lead us ever deeper into that truth.

“For God so loved <sup>the</sup> world,  
that he gave his only Son,  
<sup>that whoever</sup> <sup>believes in him</sup> should not perish  
but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Liturgical Calendar**

Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Fourth Sunday of Lent (B) (‘Laetare’ Sunday)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland National Feast
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary Solemnity
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)

**Masses & Intentions This Week**

Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Maria Veronica Chinwe Adesegha – RIP (donor – Peter & Pat Lark)
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Andrew Shanahan – RIP (donor – Maria Poddington)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Pauline Carroll – RIP Josephine Kielthy – RIP/Bday (daughter of Pauline Carroll) (donor – Josephine Sheridan)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	John Dillon – RIP/Anni and all deceased Members of Grimwood Family (donor – Rose Grimwood)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Josephine Manning – RIP/Anni (donor – Jim & Liz Manning)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Pauline Carroll – RIP (donor – Joan Carey)
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Maura & Sidney Meadway – RIP/Wedding Anniversary (donor – Mandy Meadway)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	10.00 am	Richard Carroll – well being (donor – Joan Carey)
	12.00 pm	Pauline Carroll – RIP (donor – Pauline Sheridan)

**2021: YEAR OF ST. JOSPEH**



**Why did the Pope declare 2021 a year of St. Joseph?**

In making his declaration, Pope Francis noted that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the saint’s proclamation as patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX on Dec. 8, 1870.

Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

“Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble,” the pope wrote.

He also said he wanted to highlight St. Joseph’s role as a father who served his family with charity and humility, adding, “Our world today needs fathers.”

### A daily prayer to St Joseph... and a challenge

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, “Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]” he has “recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.” This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph,” on account of its closing words: “My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.”

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

### Feast of St. Patrick:



May we wish all the dear Irish families of our churches a very happy and blessed Feast day of St. Patrick on 17<sup>th</sup> March. May St. Patrick chase away the corona virus just as he chased away all the snakes from Erin's green valleys and look down in His Love!

### Sunday Masses During Lent In Church

Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)

### The National Novena to St Joseph

Will take place from 10<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work.

If you are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are on Wednesday to Friday (10-12 March), at 7.30pm, Saturday, 13 March at 10am, Sunday, 14 March at 11.00am, Monday –Thursday (15-18 March) at 7.30pm.

If you are unable to attend but would like to join in from home, for the first time this year, Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: [stjosephsparish.co.uk](http://stjosephsparish.co.uk) and the Mill Hill website: [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena), where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet.

You can also join in by praying the daily Novena prayer, which will be in your Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW, or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com)

### The Catholic Biblical Association Of Great Britain

The CBA announces the live streamed launch of the latest document of the Pontifical Biblical Commission in its English translation. 'What is Man? A Journey through Biblical Anthropology' will be available from Darton Longman and Todd [www.dltbooks.com](http://www.dltbooks.com) Professor Nuria Calduch-Benages, professor at the Gregorian University and member of the Commission, will speak at the event on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March from 11 am GMT. Dr Sean Ryan, chair of the CBA, will introduce the event. Please access the live stream free event by going to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) and following the instructions on the home page.

### BCCS – Spring Newsletter

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society – bccs – Spring Newsletter:

[https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/9516/1409/6364/BCCS\\_Spring\\_Newsletter\\_2021.pdf](https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/9516/1409/6364/BCCS_Spring_Newsletter_2021.pdf)

### BCYS Sponsored Sleepout 2021

Join us in "giving" rather than "giving up" this Lent, by taking part in a diocesan wide Sponsored Sleepout on 26<sup>th</sup> March, led (virtually) from Walsingham House at Abbotswick. – join us from your garden, with just a sleeping bag and mat or cardboard boxes to sleep on or under! No tents allowed, whatever the weather!

Challenge yourself with a sponsorship goal - from £10 - £100, or perhaps even more! – as all money raised will support local homeless charities, such as Anchor House, The NewWay Project, Basildon Emergency Night Shelter and Southend Night Shelter, as well the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. If you are not able to take part, you can always support those who are by sponsoring them on our website! Sponsorship forms, online

donations and further information can be found at [www.bcys.net/events/sleepout2021](http://www.bcys.net/events/sleepout2021) and if you would like to take part or have any more questions, please email [gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org).

### **BCYS Voices**

I hear about refugees and I ask, “what can I do”? Inspired by his Grandparents, themselves refugees, Rob Green, a young BCYS leader, travelled to a refugee camp in Greece: what he saw inspired and challenged him. Interspersed with reflective questions, and information from the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) hear Rob tell his story in the latest BCYS voices video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqt0mvRrDH0>. More details of the whole BCYS voices series and much more at [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net)

### **Calais Light**

'Will we survive or drown?' Calais Light is a small refugee charity group that is still caring for refugees here & in N France. Watch & listen to the desperate thoughts of a refugee mother adrift in the dark in our Guided Meditation : “A minute on the Aegean Sea”. Imagine the terrible decisions she has to make. Watch on our website: [www.calaislight.com](http://www.calaislight.com) & please donate. Thank you.

### **Financial Support for your Parish**

We wish to thank those who have been most generous in your contributions to the parish finance. Those who have not yet thought about giving, you have the option of either donating on line, information below or simply pop your envelope through the Presbytery letterbox. <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=hornchurch-2>. We appreciate your help and understanding.

### **USEFUL WEBSITES**

For those who have access to a computer, you may find the following websites of help in keeping up to date with developments:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net>

<http://walsingham.org.uk> (For Live stream masses)

## **Parish Notice Board**

### **COMMUNICATIONS DESK**

#### **Liturgy Of The Word**

Apps to access readings for Mass: Daily Readings for Catholics, and Laudate. You can also access the readings by going to the website [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com)

### **Vacancy at Sir William Petre Almshouses, Ingatestone**

A vacancy has arisen at the Almshouses situated along the High St in Ingatestone. The Almshouse is a one-bedroom property. Candidates must be over 50 years and in need. Preference may be given to Roman Catholics. Applicants please contact Mike Falcone, Trustee, Ginge Petre Trust on tel 07935 959388.

### **St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay**

Are seeking to appoint a highly motivated and inspiring SENCO to join our team, with a passion for working with vulnerable children to ensure they receive the education they deserve. You will be able to bring an innovative and creative approach to supporting the strategic direction and development of SEN provision across our school, whilst effectively managing and developing the progress and achievement of our SEND pupils. You will be a

strong practitioner with a degree and a teaching qualification. Ideally, you will hold the National SENCO qualification.

For more information can be found on Essex Jobs via this link

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=62538>

**Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:** David Calder, Kathleen Clifford, Evelyn Golding, Anna Heneghan, Paul Hogan, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Sheila McCurdy, Sheila Murphy, Don Muscat, Rachel, Mary Scully, Mary Thurgood, Mary Wright. Rose Yates in Emerson Court.

<b>Parish Priest : Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)</b>
<b>Parish Administrator : Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs &amp; Fri (11am-2pm) (07956 473389)</b>
<b>Diocesan Safeguarding Representative : Katie Nash (07825293308)</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Maintenance : Mr Graham Daniels (01708 452406)</b>
<b>Parish Gift Aid Organiser : Dr Steve Pinder (01708 445443)</b>
<b>Hall &amp; Lounge Bookings : English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)</b>

**The English Martyrs Catholic Church (Diocese of Brentwood)**

**Parish address: 240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ**

**Parish tel no: 01708 507020**

**Parish email: [hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org)**

**Parish website: <http://englishmartyrshx.weebly.com/>**

**Founded 1955**

**Diocese of Brentwood**

**Registered Charity No. 23409**